

Thank you for the opportunity to share my support for Bill #5283 which secures equal funding for agriculture education. I am a 1986 graduate of the Suffield Regional program, earned my American FFA degree in 1989 and currently serve as the director of the Suffield Regional Agriscience program. Two of my own children benefited from the Agriscience program, earned their American FFA degrees and continue to invest in their agriculture education and Agriscience industry. My son is a Junior at the University of Maine pursuing a degree through the college of Natural sciences, forestry and agriculture. My daughter is a 2019 graduate of the University of Connecticut with a degree in Environmental Horticulture and currently works in the floriculture industry.

Agriculture education provides students the opportunity to use agriculture to engage in project based learning that develops their agriculture knowledge and their 21st century skills. Many students will use these skills in careers that may not be directly tied to agriculture, however all students become educated consumers, engaged citizens and better prepared for college or career.

I believe equal access through funding and awareness are critical so that all students who have a developing love for agriculture can experience this program. Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to talk further about my personal or professional experience in agriculture education

Laura LaFamme

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